

In the Claims:

1. (original) A method for operating an electronic module (10) supplied with electrical energy by an operating voltage source (U_{Bat}) with a circuit unit (3) for carrying out at least one system function, wherein in the event of an operating voltage interruption the operating voltage (U_s) is supplied by a system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) and the system function can be activated by means of the energy reserve supplied by a function-autonomous capacitor (C_z) and wherein furthermore the system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) is charged by a voltage converter (1) connected to the operating voltage source (U_{Bat}), characterized in that the function-autonomous capacitor (C_s) is connected to the voltage converter (1) and to the system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) by means of a charging connection (5) and in that said charging connection (5) is controllable in following operating states:

- a) as a switch for clocking the charging current charging the function-autonomous capacitor (C_s), and
- b) as a controllable resistance for producing a constant discharging current for checking the system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) and for producing a re-loading current for re-loading the function-autonomous capacitor (C_z).

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that for checking the system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) it is discharged into the function-autonomous capacitor (C_z).

Claims 3 to 5 (canceled).

1 6. (new) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that
2 the charging connection (5) is established by means of at
3 least one transistor element (T) and by a resistance (R)
4 which is series-connected to it.

1 7. (new) A method according to claim 1, characterized in that
2 an up-converter is used as a voltage converter (1).

1 8. (new) Use of the method according to claim 1 in a motor
2 vehicle control device with a power module (3) as a circuit
3 unit for triggering a security unit (4), wherein in the
4 event of an operating voltage interruption the system
5 function is the provision of the ignition energy by means
6 of an ignition-autonomous capacitor (C_z).

[REMARKS FOLLOW ON NEXT PAGE]